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Letter dated 23 October 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that during the presidency of Romania, the Security Council is scheduled to hold a debate on the subject "Women's participation in peace processes", celebrating on Thursday, 27 October 2005, the fifth anniversary of the adoption by the Council of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.

The presidency has prepared a concept paper to help guide the discussion on this subject (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mihnea **Ioan**
Ambassador

05-56743 (E) 251005

Annex to the letter dated 23 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

OPEN MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, 27 OCTOBER 2009

SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 – "WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY"

"WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PEACE PROCESSES"

Introduction

Since the adoption of its resolution 1325 (2000), the Security Council has held annual open debates on women, peace and security, as well as Arria formula meetings to inform its work. Three Presidential statements (S/PRST/2002/32, S/PRST/2004/40), in addition to the above resolution called for a number of concrete steps and measures to be undertaken by Member States, parties to conflict, the UN system and civil society to protect women and enhance their role in peace and security.

With the view to bringing into Security Council's deliberations topics of current relevance related to human rights, conflict prevention and peace building, the Romanian Presidency of the Security Council proposes to focus the Open Debate for the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Resolution 1325 "Women, peace and security" on women's participation in peace processes. We believe this subject fits as well with the broader perspective of evaluation and reflection, which will be open in the context of the expected introduction of the System-Wide Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325(2000).

Over the past years, there has been increased recognition of the valuable contribution of women to prevention of peace, especially of their important role in confidence building, promoting reconciliation, and the culture of peace during post-conflict transitional processes. A greater participation of women in nation-building including elections and governance, has been called for. The Security Council has paid closer attention to gender issues in its country and thematic debates by integrating gender perspectives into its missions to conflict areas, mandates of peacekeeping and peace making missions, and in monitoring and evaluating progress in conflict areas.

Despite these achievements, since 2000 insufficient progress has been achieved in making women equal partners in peace processes and, more importantly, in making a difference for lives of millions of women in conflict areas. As indicated in Secretary General's report 2004 on "Women, peace and security", the number of women who participate in formal peace processes remains small, women's needs and concerns are ignored when striving to reach an agreement and women's organizations often lack sufficient resources to effectively influence lengthy negotiations. The 2005 High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly recognized the importance of women having the opportunity for equal participation and full involvement in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, as well the need to increase their role in decision-making at all levels.

The exclusion of women in the formal negotiation phase has significant ramifications on many post-conflict reconstruction processes, such as constitutional, electoral and judicial reform, [illegible], Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration and Security Sector Reform are decided by the parties at the peace table. Women's participation at the peace table can influence the scope of discussions and ensure that often neglected topics such as ending impunity for war crimes against women and children and, in general, human rights violations, including rape, are addressed by the relevant parties. Women's involvement at the formal peace table can translate into support for the peace process during implementation of peace agreements, as women's networks reach out to their grassroots memberships to support peace-building and reconciliation.

The Open Debate 2005 will provide an important opportunity to discuss the obstacles to women's participation and present concrete steps through which women's involvement and the articulation of gender equality in political negotiations and implementation of agreements can effectively enhance women's role in peace processes and strengthen the legitimacy of the decision-making processes vital for building comprehensive and sustainable peace. Moreover, it will help draw appropriate conclusions from best practices and generate ideas for future initiatives aimed at better coordinating efforts of Member States, United Nations and civil society to diversify and increase women's participation in peace processes, at various levels.

Principal objectives of the meeting:

- To hear views on the current stage of implementation of Resolution 1325, five years after its adoption, and recommendations for future actions.
- To examine best practices of women's involvement in peace processes and allow representatives from UN system and civil society to elaborate on specific measures that need to be adopted in order to foster contribution of women to conflict resolution and peace-building at national, regional and international levels.
- To provide Member States with the opportunity to comment on the Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) across the United Nations system.

Format of the meeting

Presidency will open the meeting with short introductory remarks. The Secretary-General may wish to make a statement. A video projection with a duration of approximately 5 minute will follow, featuring an interview with a women former peace negotiator and currently Member of Parliament in Burundi, with other actors, such as leaders of women's organizations, the SRSG Carolyn McAskie, members of the DPKO mission in Burundi etc. After that, the President will give the floor to the speakers and the Council Members and non-Council members will then present their statements. As part of the inter-active dialogue, the Member States may wish to ask specific questions in connection with the issues raised by the speakers in their statements. The President will invite the speakers to respond at the end of the meeting.

Outcome:

The intention of the Presidency is to conclude the meeting with the adoption of a PRST. A draft will be prepared and circulated in due time, to be agreed before the holding of the debate.